

# **Utilities sue 18 cities, utilities for \$100M in price inflation claims**

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Edison International, PG&E Corp. and Sempra Energy sued Los Angeles and 17 other cities and utilities for \$100 million yesterday for selling energy at inflated prices during California's 2000-01 energy crises.

Filing suit in Los Angeles Superior Court, the three companies accused the cities and utilities of selling power during the crisis at rates that were "unjust, unreasonable, and unlawful" (Los Angeles Times, April 12).

The lawsuit comes the same day Oregon-based PacifiCorp agreed to pay \$28 million to the three companies and several California agencies for selling power at inflated rates during the crisis.

"The settlement allows us to respond to one of the last remnants from the California energy crisis and move forward with our business of serving customers," said PacifiCorp spokeswoman Jan Mitchell.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must approve the PacifiCorp agreement (Reuters, April 11). -- EB